

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, QA

SUBJ: DOHA AIRPORT PROJECT

REF: STATE 265517, DOHA 1142 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: AS RESULT OF SPECIAL EFFORT BY DEPT, TOM COLLINS SERVED AS US MEMBER ON COMMITTEE ASSEMBLED BY MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS (MPW) TO REVIEW DESIGN FOR NEW DOHA AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT DESIGN BE RETAINED BUT SUGGESTED SOME MODIFICATIONS. COLLINS TOLD US THAT FROM TECHNICAL VIEWPOINT GOQ WILL NOT NEED TO RE-TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION (CONTRACT AWARDED TO INDIAN FIRM IN APRIL), BUT THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT GOVERNMENT MAY USE CHANGES AS EXCUSE TO DROP INDIANS, GIVING NEW CHANCE TO PERINI CORP (US), THE SECOND LOWEST BIDDER. END SUMMARY.

1. TOM COLLINS ARRIVED DOHA IN TIME FOR FIRST MEETING OF AIRPORT STUDY GROUP ON NOV 10. GROUP CONCLUDED REVIEW OF AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING DESIGN AND SUBMITTED REPORT TO MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS NOV 13. EMBASSY WISHES TO THANK ARP AND EB/AVP FOR COMING UP WITH WELL QUALIFIED US COMMITTEE MEMBER ON SHORT NOTICE. THIS IS KIND OF RESPONSIVENESS THAT IS MUCH APPRECIATED HERE AND ADDS SUBSTANCE TO US-GOQ RELATIONS.

2. PRIOR DEPARTURE, COLLINS BRIEFED US ON RESULTS OF MEETINGS. COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF COLLINS, CHIEF ARCHITECT FROM AEROPORT DE PARIS, BRITISH AIRPORT AUTHORITY REP AND MEMBER OF BRITISH

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ARCHITECTURAL FIRM, WAS ASKED TO EVALUATE ORIGINAL AIRPORT DESIGN

PREPARED BY GIBB, PETERMULLER AND ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT CHANGES REQUESTED BY AMIR COULD BE INCORPORATED WITHOUT COMPLETE REVISION OF PLANS. IN ADDITION, COMMITTEE WAS REQUESTED TO COMMENT ON SEPARATE DESIGN FOR NEW AIRPORT PREPARED BY AEROPORT DE PARIS IN SEPTEMBER.

3. COLLINS SAID COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT CHANGES (LARGER ENTRANCE HALL AND RESTAURANT) COULD BE MADE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ORIGINAL DESIGN WHICH HE CONSIDERED BASICALLY SOUND. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT UNANIMITY WAS NOT EASILY ACHIEVED SINCE AEROPORT DE PARIS REP PREDICTABLY GAVE STRONG PUSH TO HIS ORGANIZATION'S PLAN. COLLINS GAVE FULL POINTS TO FRENCH FOR PROFESSIONAL AND THOROUGH DESIGN BUT SAID PLAN CALLED FOR SOPHISTICATED CONSTRUCTION METHODS UNFAMILIAR TO AREA.

4. COLLINS STATED THAT MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS KHALID AL ATIYAH MADE IT CLEAR TO COMMITTEE THAT AMIR WANTED QUICK, CLEAR RECOMMENDATIONS ON FEASIBILITY OF AND MODIFICATIONS TO DESIGN SO THAT GOQ COULD PROCEED WITH PROJECT AFTER DELAY OF MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. COLLINS NOTED THAT CHANGES COMMITTEE PROPOSED TO DESIGN WILL NOT ALTER BASIC CONCEPT TO EXTENT THAT RE-TENDERING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WILL BE NECESSARY. HE SAID IT WILL TAKE MONTH OR SO FOR GIBB, PETERMULLER TO MAKE CHANGES IN PLAN, AFTER WHICH CONTRACTORS SELECTED IN APRIL COULD BEGIN WORK. COLLINS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF GOQ WERE LOOKING FOR EXCUSE TO CANCEL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT, DESIGN CHANGES WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY.

5. AS DEPT AWARE, US FIRM PERINI BID ON \$35 MILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR TERMINAL BUILDING BUT LOST OUT TO LOW BIDDERS, INDIAN FIRM SHAH (DOHA 0275, 0353). FOLLOWING REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING, WE CHECKED IN WITH PERINI'S LOCAL PARTNER, WHO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHANGES TO EASE INDIANS OUT. HE TOLD US HE WOULD CONTACT SOURCES IN PALACE AND MPW TO GET READING ON SITUATION AND SAID IF OFFICIALS CONFIRMED HIS BELIEF THAT GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PROPOSAL FROM ANOTHER FIRM FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK, HE WOULD REQUEST PERINI TO SEND OUT DELEGATION WITH NEW OFFER.

6. COMMENT: WE NOT IN POSITION TO PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITUATION WILL PROVIDE PERINI WITH FRESH CHANCE AT JOB. IT DOES APPEAR SOMEWHAT IMPROBABLE THAT GOQ WOULD CREATE FURTHER DELAY AND EXPENSE BY SACKING SHWH ESPECIALLY SINCE FIRM WAS TECHNICALLY RECOMMENDED BY CONSULTANTS IN ADDITION TO SUB-.8558,&)923 5 ?8\$. GOQ, HOWEVER, DOES NOT ALWAYS FOLLOW DICTATES OF LOGIC. WE WILL ADVISE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF PERINI'S PARTNER. DEPT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT CONTACT PERINI UNTIL SITUATION IS CLARIFIED.

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